

# HART Weekly Update

## Homeless Assistance Response Team

June 7, 2024

# 28

Total Active Sites

# 177

Total Occupants

# 160

Total Tents

# 139

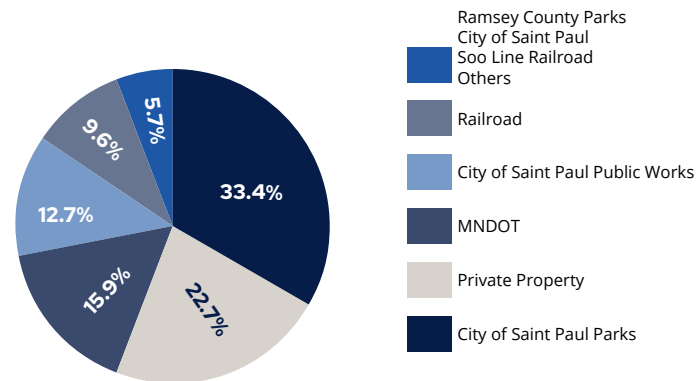
Total Male

# 42

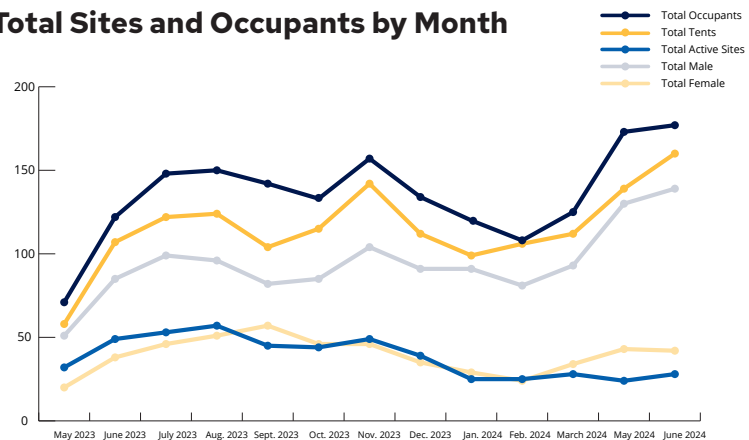
Total Female

## City Data Summary

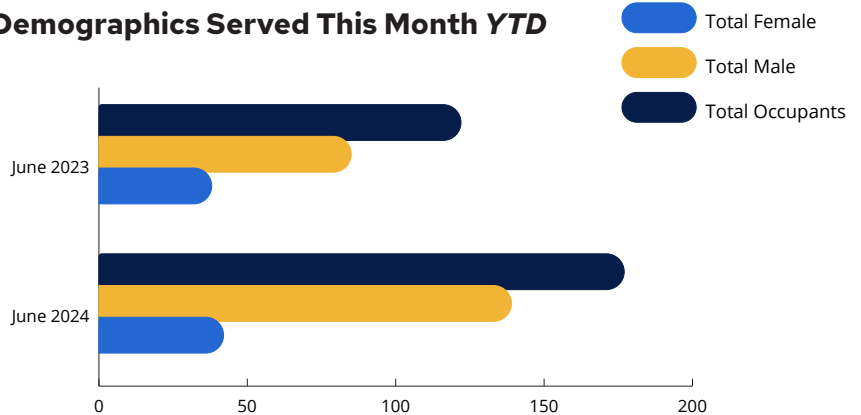
### Property Owner Distribution



### Total Sites and Occupants by Month



### Demographics Served This Month YTD



### HART Contact Information

David Hoban, Deputy Director, DSI  
 Brian Ganzel, DSI Inspector III, HART  
 James Hoffman, DSI Inspector III, HART  
 Kahari Smith-Brewer, Outreach Worker  
 Sam Stoltz, Outreach Worker

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## A Reasonable Request

By Director Angie Wiese

As you might imagine, we at the Department of Safety & Inspections receive a fair share of thoughts and ideas from our customers regarding how we perform and show up in the community. It's not all bad — many people rely on our services to maintain habitable living conditions and to feel safe in the spaces where they choose to spend their time. Everything from rodent infestations to elevators inaccessible to the wheelchair-bound, they frequently tell our team about the important impact they made and that the outcome would not have been as successful without our intervention. I keep a "kudos" folder in my email inbox expressly to save these moments.

Our unsheltered homeless work is akin to riding a roller coaster that never ends. We have fantastic successes like housing someone who has been outside for more than a decade, connecting people with the treatment they seek, reconnecting people with their network of loved ones, or earning someone's trust. Something as simple as performing a housing assessment is a win because it means they can now access housing. These are the best parts of the roller coaster — you feel amazing and can see the results of your efforts.

One of our team members was handed a 3-page hand-written note from one of our unsheltered neighbors the other day. He has been homeless since 2016 and now finds himself with several dozen people in Saint Paul. He doesn't rant or complain. His ask is simple: "please provide showers, bathrooms with sinks, laundry services, and a space to "repair all of the clothing that I have."

It's easy to say this request is outlandish... but is it? I took a hot shower today... I used the restroom in a safe, hygienic manner several times today. I washed bed sheets last night (thank you, pre-menopause night sweats). Over the weekend I mended several items for my family because I like to, not because it is the only clothes we own. I did not think about these as being luxuries. They are not outlandish expectations...

Applying for jobs, filling out rental applications, signing up for insurance, figuring out how and where to pay what bills when — it's exhausting. Now imagine doing so with little to no capital, sleep, a recent balanced meal or shower, or clean and dry clothes.

Our neighbor concludes his letter with one more request — provide enough housing "to accommodate the minimal census count of each neighborhood of homeless and poverty stricken people."

We are committed to all of our neighbors — sheltered and unsheltered alike. Every day we will continue to establish new partnerships, think creatively, use available funding effectively, and break down barriers to achieve our goals. I love the short wins, but we are here for the long game.

All we can do is our best — every day.

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